

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

CATEGORY = 2

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MESSAGE = 02142041

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TO NSA/OUTFORM WHISKEY HCR NMCC WHITE HOUSE

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~~SECRET SPOKE~~

XXMM

ENP01F0072353 2/00/VCKZRI349-72 SPOT REPORT AVN/AVIA/OPER/DAMCZ1. B-52 DAMAGED BY SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE, 1300Z HOUR 18 DEC
XXCC

ON 18 DECEMBER AT 1317Z, A NORTH VIETNAMESE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE UNIT, BELIEVED TO BE BATTALION 51 OF THE 267TH SAM REGIMENT (UNLOCATED BUT POSSIBLY IN THE VICINITY OF 19-18N 105-28E OR 2-1"N 105-15E, VN550) LAUNCHED TWO MISSILES AT A FLIGHT OF THREE B52S((1)). THIS ENGAGEMENT PROBABLY INFLECTED SEVERE BATTLE DAMAGE TO A B52 WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY RECOVERED AT UTAPAO, THAILAND. NORTH VIETNAMESE AIR SURVEILLANCE FACILITIES BETWEEN 1330 AND 1322Z REPORTED LIMITED REFLECTIONS OF A FLIGHT OF AIRCRAFT BELIEVED TO EQUATE TO THE B52S ENGAGED BY THE SAM UNIT. TRACKING BY POSSIBLY THE 293RD RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT IDENTIFIED THE TRACK, BELIEVED TO EQUATE THE LILAC FLIGHT, AS A FLIGHT OF THREE B52S. THE INITIAL REFLECTION PLACED THE FLIGHT AT 19-48N 105-30E AT 1300Z ON A NORTHWARD HEADING. THE NEXT POSITION REPORT REFLECTED THE FLIGHT AT 20-28N 105-30E AT 1301Z. TRACKING CONTINUITY APPEARED TO BE LOST AS THE THIRD POSITION REPORT WAS NOT PASSED UNTIL 1317Z, WHEN THE FLIGHT WAS AT 19-42N 105-10E. THE AIRCRAFT TURNED AND HEADED SOUTHEAST TO A LAST-NOTED POSITION OF 18-41N 105-57E AT 1322Z. NORTH VIETNAMESE SAM FACILITIES DID NOT REFLECT THE ACTUAL LAUNCH AGAINST THE B52; HOWEVER, AT 1334Z A SPEAKER BELIEVED TO BE AT BATTALION 51, PASSED PRELIMINARY INFORMATION CONCERNING AT TWO-MISSILE SALVO LAUNCHED AT A FLIGHT OF B52S AT 1317Z. THE FIRST MISSILE WAS LAUNCHED ALONG AN AZIMUTH OF 300 DEGREES FROM THE SITE, THE SECOND ALONG AN AZIMUTH OF 298 DEGREES. THE SITE-TO-TARGET RANGES AT TIME OF LAUNCH WERE 32 AND 30 KILOMETERS FOR MISSILES ONE AND TWO, RESPECTIVELY. THE AZIMUTHS AND RANGES AT POINT OF INTERCEPT WERE 272 DEGREES, 29 KILOMETERS AND 270 DEGREES, 26 KILOMETERS FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND MISSILES. THE REPORTED TARGET ALTITUDE WAS 10 KILOMETERS. THE SPEAKER REPORTED THAT THE MISSILES WERE DETONATED BY MEANS OF PROXIMITY FUZE; FUZE ARMING TIMES WERE 11.5 SECONDS FOR EACH MISSILE. THE FIRST MISSILE REPORTEDLY RAN PAST THE TARGET TOWARDS DIRECTION 260. MISSILE TWO RAN TOWARD DIRECTION 290. IN CONCLUDING THIS REPORT, THE SPEAKER STATED THAT PERSONNEL AT THE SAM BATTALION AND OTHER UNIDENTIFIED OBSERVERS REPORTED THAT BOTH MISSILES EXPLODED WELL. COMMENT COLLATERAL SOURCES REPORT THAT ONE B-52 OF LILAC CELL SUSTAINED SEVERE BATTLE DAMAGE, PROBABLY FROM SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES, AFTER STRIKING A TARGET AT 21-09N 105-51E AT 1303Z. THE AIRCRAFT RECOVERED AT U-TAPAI, THAILAND. ((1)) USA-29 CRITIC 10-72 18/1405Z AND FOLLOW-UPS. XXMM 500 08313 HHHH

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